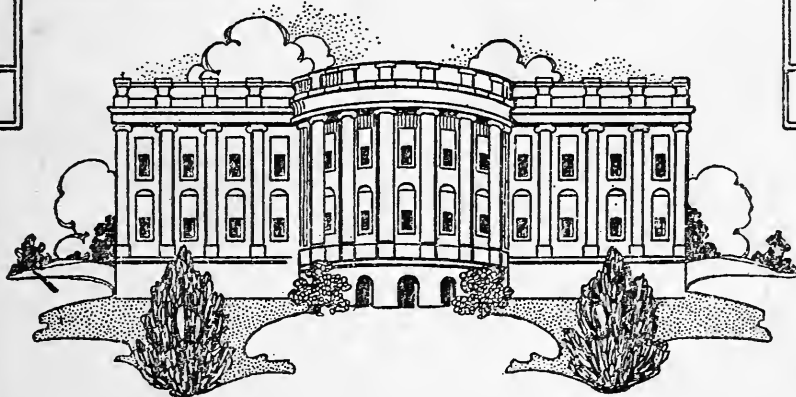


Abraham Lincoln



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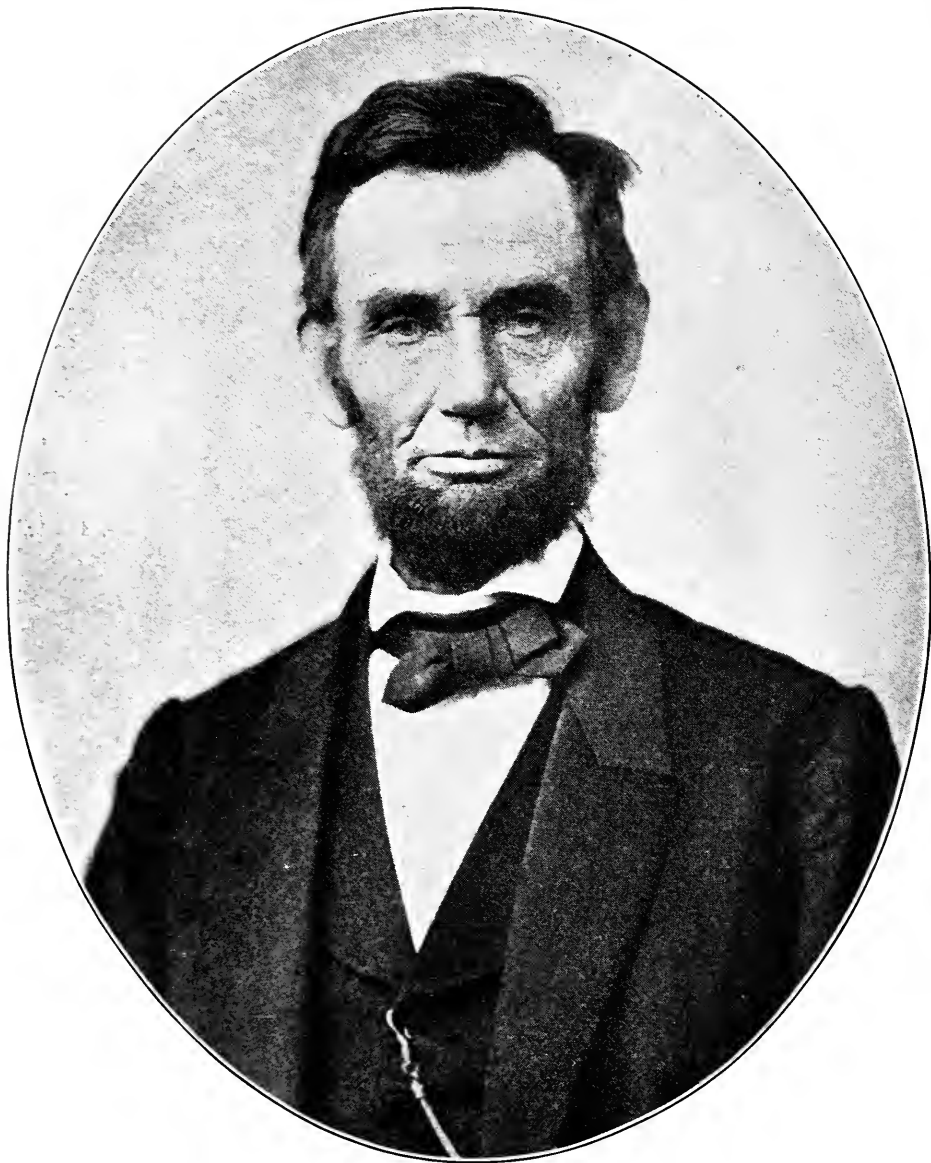
In Commemoration  
of the

**Centenary Anniversary**

of the Birth of

**Abraham Lincoln**

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PORTRAIT TAKEN IN 1865; A VERY FEW DAYS BEFORE LINCOLN  
WAS ASSASSINATED

*[From painting loaned by Major William H. Lambert, Philadelphia]*

# Abraham Lincoln

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BORN, FEBRUARY 12, 1809

DIED, APRIL 15, 1865

*Sixteenth President of the United States*

---

A brief Biography, noting especially the Influences of his Early Years, as Manifested in the Splendid Fruitage of His Later Life—Accounts of His More Important Acts as President—The Assassination—Carefully verified Anecdotes—Eulogies and Appreciations:

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By J. F. BEALE, JR.

*Author of The Life of Spurgeon, The Life of Jay Gould, The Life of McKinley,  
Lives of Eminent Divines, Etc., Etc.*



PHILADELPHIA, 1909

*Published By*

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PRESS OF  
STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER

# INTRODUCTION

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**N**ATURE is not lavish of great men—she seems to distribute them through the centuries,” says a writer. Rarely have two really great men or women destined to leave ineffaceable footprints on time’s sands been born even in the same decade.

¶ The year 1809, however, has the distinction of being the natal year of eight men and two women to whom the world owes debts it can never pay, no matter how tall its monuments or how profound its eulogies.

¶ Only by taking into our very hearts and “main intentions” the lessons their lives point may we truly honor them.

¶ The scroll of honor includes Lincoln, Holmes, Poe, Fanny Kemble, Chopin, Darwin, Mendelssohn, Tennyson, Mrs. Browning and Gladstone.

¶ What a group !

¶ What divine inspiration manifesting itself in such varied form !

¶ In this little book it is the author’s privilege to present a brief life of Lincoln, and to furnish some carefully verified anecdotes and “appreciations” of his manifold characteristics, in centenary commemoration of the President-martyr’s birth, on February 12, 1809.

¶ May each one who reads take into his or her heart the lesson that true greatness spells true simplicity, true humility, honor for honor’s sake, unswerving perseverance in the right, justice, mercy, and that true love of mankind which broadly embraces in its generosity and tolerance all creeds, all conditions, every animate and inanimate thing created by the Almighty—intolerance of every wrong, but not of the wrong doer.

J. F. B., Jr.

Philadelphia, February 1, 1909.

# FIVE PITHY PARAGRAPHS FROM FIVE SPEECHES OF *LINCOLN*



I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free.

*Speech, June 16, 1858.*



Let us have faith that the right makes might; and in that faith let us dare to do our duty as we understand it.

*Address, New York City, February 21, 1859.*



In giving freedom to the slave we assure freedom to the free—honorable alike in what we give and what we preserve.

*Second Annual Message to Congress, December 1, 1862.*



That this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

*Speech at Gettysburg, November 19, 1863.*



With malice towards none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right.

*Second Inaugural Address, March 4, 1865.*



# CHAPTER I

## LINCOLN'S PARENTS—HIS BIRTH



REPORTS are conflicting as to the regard in which the parents of "The Great Emancipator" were held in the community in which they lived at the time of his birth, February 12, 1809, and during the few succeeding years.

Charges have been made that Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, was unkind and neglectful to his wife, provided poorly for her and for his family, was shiftless, ignorant and lazy. Against such statements stands the claim of writers equal in number, and entitled to at least equal credence, that in those early days, living, as he did, the life of a pioneer, the husband provided for his family as well as was possible.

Certain it seems, however, that Nancy Hanks Lincoln, Abraham's mother, was a woman of more refined sensibilities than her husband, possessing finer qualities of mind. She had throughout those early days a constant longing for better things, for closer companionship with her husband, and for the refinements of life, which was never gratified. To a considerable extent, through the unavoidable laws of inheritance, this had its bearing on Abraham Lincoln's character and mind. Even before the weight of greater public responsibilities than have ever been borne by any other American gave to Lincoln's wonderful face and figure that ineffable expression of sadness, there was, as shown by early portraits, and attested by early writers, an expression of face and manner, particularly about the eyes and mouth, that could only be described as longing, yearning, sorrowing sympathy.

The mother's longing was for better things and conditions for herself, the son's for humanity, for he was oblivious of self where a fellow man could be helped.

The mother lacked in both physical strength and mental caliber the power to achieve her desire, while the son, gentle though he was, recognized no obstacle as unsurmountable when he took to heart an ambition.

Abraham Lincoln's father seems to have impressed himself upon his son's life to but small extent, though as he rather than the mother was selected by destiny as the active one in regulating where and how the boy should live, his influence, indirectly, was felt.

In 1816, when young Lincoln was seven, the family moved or, rather, emigrated, as it was called in those days, to Indiana. Thomas Lincoln gave his neighbors no reason for this removal of his family, and it was assumed that he was simply desirous of following his brother Josiah, who had gone to Indiana a pioneer two years previously. Some said that "Tom Lincoln would never stay long in one place." He had the desire for new scenes, and there was in him the love of conquering the wilderness, though he was not a man fond of work which partook of the nature of drudgery. He is reported, however, "not to have known the nature of fear."

The location selected for settlement was a spot in Spencer County, Indiana, some fourteen miles north of the Ohio River, and less than two miles from the village of Gentryville.

Lincoln gave as the reason for this emigration that his father could not secure perfect land titles in Kentucky, and that he was opposed to slavery, which was an institution strong in that State. In such a wild location was the new home that trees had to be felled to make a road or pathway for the new settlers.

Here the Lincolns, with little Abraham's help, built their own cabin of logs. There were no windows, but one entrance in which was hung a skin instead of a door. The furniture, such as they had, was of their own making.

Their food was game and corn meal, with but one vegetable, potatoes. They made their own soaps and candles, and the clothing they wore was literally "home-made," from spinning and weaving throughout.

Young Abraham never required a gymnasium to strengthen his growing muscles—he worked hard and for long hours. He grew strong and wiry, developed powerful endurance and resistance to disease and fatigue which stood him and the nation in good stead in the last sad years of his manhood.

## CHAPTER II

### DEATH OF LINCOLN'S MOTHER



IN 1818 the mother died. She was prepared for burial, placed in a coffin made by her husband, and by him interred. A year later Thomas Lincoln went back to Kentucky, married Sally Bush Johnson, a widow with three children, and brought her to the house in Indiana. Abraham was then ten years of age. A supply of household comforts and conveniences such as young Abraham had never seen or dreamed existed was brought from her former home by the second Mrs. Lincoln. She at once made great changes in the Lincoln home, giving to it an air of comfort, tidiness and care new and grateful to its occupants.

During the years from 1819 till 1822, from Lincoln's tenth to thirteenth years, he worked steadily, honestly, earnestly as a farm hand and general laborer for his father. His greatest accomplishment was in felling and splitting trees for timber

and fence rails. For one so young he was thorough in his knowledge of the primitive farming methods of those days, and was even a reasonably good house carpenter and furniture builder and repairer. Whatever he undertook he gave himself to thoroughly, enthusiastically and honestly. If he objected to working, not only on the homestead for his father, but to being "hired out," payment for his labor going to his father, history does not so record.

Abraham is spoken of as remarkably bright, a hard, close student of the few books at his disposal at the time, and infatuated with studies and learning when in attendance at school for the few weeks at a time that some strolling, itinerant pedagogue would tarry in the community and open the log school.

In 1826 Lincoln spent some time ferrying on a tributary of the Ohio River not far from his home. This brought him in contact with produce raisers of his home vicinity and of the sections beyond. Ere long he secured employment at eight dollars a month to go down the river to New Orleans with a load of produce.

Up to his eighteenth year Lincoln had attended school, all told, a total of less than a year! But he had learned to read, and he knew almost by heart the Bible, Aesop's Fables, Robinson Crusoe, Bunyon's Pilgrim's Progress, A History of the United States, the Life of Washington, and the Statutes of Indiana.

All of these books he managed to possess. Besides them he borrowed numerous others, and read assiduously, concentratedly, rememberingly, comprehendingly, whenever opportunity presented. With a turkey feather pen, and ink made from berries and roots he would copy long extracts from borrowed books and commit them to memory. On one occasion he walked twenty-five miles through a snowstorm in bitter

*Lincoln*  
*Springfield Ill*  
**DICTIONARY**  
*Sargamon*  
FOR  
*Burt*  
**PRIMARY SCHOOLS.**

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BY NOAH WEBSTER, LL. D.

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NEW YORK:

PUBLISHED BY N. & J. WHITE, 108 PEARL STREET.

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STEREOTYPED BY A. CHANDLER, NEW YORK.

1833.


TITLE PAGE OF LINCOLN'S DICTIONARY

[Loaned by Major William H. Lambert]

weather to borrow a book of which he had heard. The walk was repeated when the book was returned on exactly the day he had promised it should be. He would read a book in which he was greatly interested till midnight, sleep four hours, and at daybreak or before take the book from the floor beside his bed and lie reading for an hour or more. When plowing or harvesting in the spring and summer, or wood chopping and rail splitting in winter, the rest hour at noon found Lincoln reading as he ate and rested.

## CHAPTER III

### EARLY POPULARITY

O retentive was his memory, so interestingly and enthusiastically could he converse concerning the things he had read, that as he approached manhood's estate he became the favorite member of the group that gathered once or twice a week at the general store in the village to discuss the news of the day, including slavery, which was fast becoming the great topic of the times. Then came a new ambition in the young pioneer's life—the ambition to be an orator, a swayer of men's minds, a public influence. Whenever he recited or read aloud, particularly when he made a stump speech, he drew great applause. He was more than popular, he was magnetic. From the town grocery store he drifted to the Court House at Booneville, walking many miles for the privilege of hearing the orators among the lawyers of the time and place. Soon his admirers found that he could write quite as forcefully as he spoke, and he had the pleasure of seeing some of his ideas and observations in public print at a much younger age than do most men of college education and advantageous environment in these days.

Lincoln's first broadening influence was his trip to New Orleans, which was, proportionately to the times, a greater metropolis, a more cosmopolitan place, more abounding in wonders to delight the mind and senses than New York is today.

To know, and do, and to be something far above mediocrity became a settled ambition with him. His reading, particularly in the field of history, and the ambition stimulated in him by his stepmother, encouraged him to believe in the possibility of his doing great good for his fellow men. Early associates, writing of his youthful ambitions, after he had become President, were unanimous in the statement that he desired to be famous, not for fame's sake, but for the sake of doing some great thing or things for his country and his fellow men. From boyhood through all his life runs the record of sincerity, determination, thoroughness and love of his fellow men, with not a thought or action that could be contributed to self interest.

Anecdotes of his life from boyhood through to, and during his early manhood, are very plentiful. They tell of keen wit, thoroughness, thoughtfulness of others, a facility in writing, speaking and debating, physical prowess, sterling honesty, great gentleness and supreme love of justice.

He was a charming raconteur, and even in his more serious conversations, debates and speeches he began in these early days a habit which never left him, and which always served to endear him to the common people—the habit of making his points and adorning his statement with stories, maxims and homely tales, the influence upon his mind, unquestionably, of his early reading of allegorical literature.

Lincoln's stepmother, who, as we have seen, was one of the great influences in his life, said of him after his death.

"He was the best, the most obedient and dutiful boy I ever saw, and he was so droll."

Lincoln found some time for the simple pleasures of the country lads and lassies of his Indiana home, despite his hard work and assiduous reading. He was fond of fun, sometimes even playing practical jokes; called occasionally on the young girls of the neighborhood, and hunted a little, though in none of these things did he seem to take more than passing interest.

Lincoln was by inheritance, however, inclined somewhat to melancholy, which often he could not overcome. As he developed into young manhood there was much to sadden his deeply sympathetic nature, and his melancholy at times was very apparent. Crimes of all degrees were rampant about him. One of his closest friends lost his reason and finally became an incurable idiot. His mother had been buried without services of undertaker or clergyman. His sister had died in a manner most heart-rending to Lincoln. The only uplift possible for the future President was to come from within. His surroundings were hard and cheerless, uninspiring, deadening to any but a great nature that would not be downed.

## CHAPTER IV

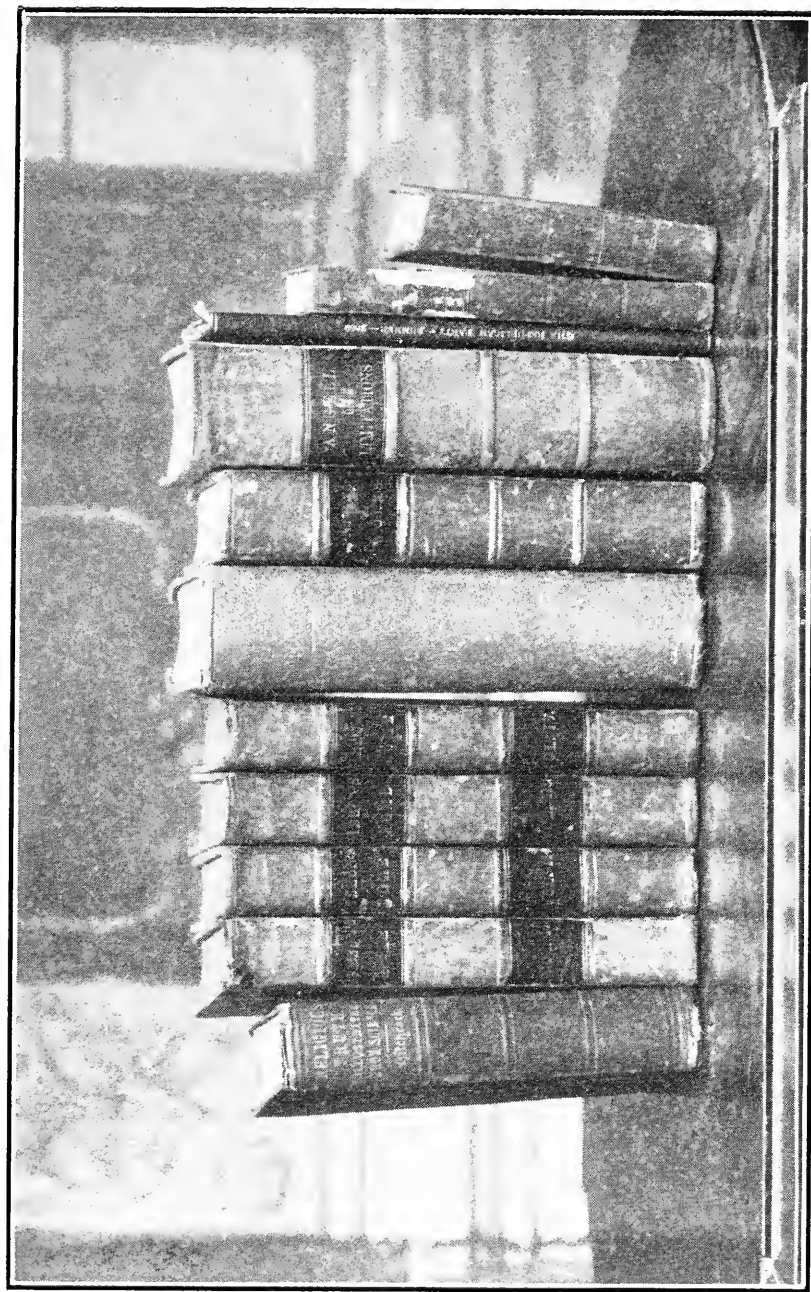
### A SECOND CHANGE OF HOME



IN 1830, when twenty-one years of age, he moved with his father from Indiana to Central Illinois. The family had endured many hardships and had nothing to show for them.

The land was not fertile, nor was the location a healthful one. Besides Lincoln and his father there were several other immigrants, all relatives. There was hearty good-speed by the neighbors. None of the party, however, seemed to be so tenderly and highly regarded as "Abe," who





SOME OF THE FEW BOOKS LINCOLN OWNED. THE SMALL VOLUME ON THE EXTREME RIGHT IS THE ONLY DICTIONARY LINCOLN EVER POSSESSED

from earliest childhood possessed that great faculty of unconsciously making friends who were devoted and life-long in their attachment.

Ox-carts were the means of conveyance employed, and the future President drove one of the teams most of the way. The journey consumed some sixteen days. The traveling was over very rough country. On this trip Lincoln saw for the first time in one of the towns through which the little party journeyed a printing press, and in the town of Decatur, the Court House in which he was years after to practice as a lawyer.

Like a dutiful son, Lincoln helped hew the logs for the cabin that was built, and the rails to include the ten acres of land acquired by his father. While he had attained his majority in February, he did not claim independence of his father until summer. Then he left without owning a single possession, without even a good suit of clothes. He split more rails, this time for payment in cloth to make respectable clothing for a young man who had determined to go out into the world and make a reputation. He was now at his full height, which was 6 feet 4 inches. He was powerful, yet no one ever thought of fear in connection with him, and, in turn, he knew no fear. He was a gentle giant, counted a "good fellow," and always, without effort, winning friends.

Through the latter part of 1830 and the early part of 1831 Lincoln split rails and performed various hard manual labor in the vicinity of his father's home. In the winter of 1831, with two companions, he took a flatboat down the Mississippi to New Orleans. The boat they built themselves in about thirty days' time. Its launching was accompanied by bravery on the part of Lincoln in saving three companions from drowning, which spread the fame of "Big Abe Lincoln" over the entire countryside.

In New Orleans Lincoln saw for the first time human beings sold like cattle. It was here, history records, that he made his first promise to any one to do his best toward abolishing slavery, in no matter what position he might find himself in life.

## CHAPTER V

### LINCOLN BECOMES A CLERK



ON this trip he had become a very warm friend of Dunton Offutt, one of his companions in the hardships of the journey, and a man of some small substance. Upon his return from New Orleans he became a clerk in his friend's store and mill at New Salem, Illinois. Here he made friends for himself and money for his employer by his recital of stories and ready wit, his obliging manners and fine honesty. His chivalry in thoroughly thrashing a big fellow who insisted upon using profane language in his store in the presence of ladies also fanned the flame of his popularity. So transparent and consistent was his honesty that it was here he probably first received the title of "Honest Abe" that stuck to him through life. As one of many examples of his honesty at this time, it is told of Lincoln that he walked three miles one evening to return six and a quarter cents (half a levy) which he had that day taken from a woman in mistake when making change.

As the business of the store improved and an assistant was engaged, Lincoln had an occasional hour or two for reading and study, or to attend debates and public meetings. Occasionally he would address small gatherings on some topic of local interest. So eager was he to improve his mind, to polish his speech, and to command facts, that he would walk miles at any time for a book he had heard of and desired to study.

The whole community began to realize his sterling worth, his perseverance, and the manifold elements of greatness which he was so visibly developing. One historian relates that it was about this time, 1832, when Lincoln was about twenty-three years old, and had been urged to become a candidate for the General Assembly of the State, that this prediction was first publicly made of him by a man of prominence in the community: "That man Abe Lincoln, though he's never had a year's schooling in all his life, will some day be President of the United States."

During this period in his life for four years Lincoln was in public view. His ambitions to succeed in public life, to serve his country, were daily stimulated. The store in which he worked was losing prestige through its owner's mismanagement. Lincoln resigned his position before the Sheriff took charge of the store, and was made a captain of volunteers banded to suppress Black Hawk and his Indians, who were terrorizing the then frontier.

Though ignorant of military discipline, drill and manoeuvres, Lincoln as usual won the hearts of his men. He was idolized by his company. Later he joined a band of rangers scouting the country over, a sort of frontier police or constabulary.

After the Indians had been suppressed Lincoln again entered politics. In his candidacy for the General Assembly he was defeated, the first and only time he ever suffered defeat at the polls, by vote of the people, though he afterward, once, was defeated by "electoral" vote.

He had accumulated a few dollars, had credit for a little more, found a partner named Berry who was willing to join him, and the two bought a general store and grocery business, which they conducted with indifferent success for some months. During this storekeeping experience Lincoln had

more leisure than had before fallen to his lot. He became possessed of Blackstone's Commentaries and had access to several other law books which he read and studied eagerly, and thus began his first serious and systematic study of law.

Though a Whig, Lincoln was appointed postmaster of New Salem, Illinois, in 1833. The post carried with it but small duties. Postage rates in those days were from 6 cents to 25 cents on each letter, according to weight, and correspondence, both business and social, was very light. The young postmaster, however, conscientiously performed such duties as devolved upon him. One biographer states that though many of the patrons of the office lived several miles outside of town, he carried their mail to their doors without delay upon its arrival by stage at the postoffice.

In the latter part of 1833 and in 1834 the young storekeeper-postmaster found his business growing less and less profitable. The pittance of income from the postmastership was not sufficient for living expenses. He therefore, upon learning that the County Surveyor was in need of deputies, borrowed as many books on surveying as he could procure, studied with his usual devotion to any subject he considered "worth while," and in a few weeks had mastered the subject sufficiently to gain him the coveted appointment. His surveys were always thorough and correct. There was no slipshod, inaccurate work possible to a man of Lincoln's character. In 1836 he laid out the town of Petersburg, and built some new roads. His salary was three dollars a day, but of this amount so much was required for the expense of getting about the country that he was in debt most of the time.

He still retained his partnership in the grocery store with Berry, but fate seemed against the venture and the firm failed. Lincoln felt this keenly. He gave notes for his share of the firm's indebtedness, which more than ten years later he paid

with interest at rates so high that in the case of some of the notes the amount had more than doubled.

In 1834 Lincoln again became a candidate for the Legislature, and was elected. With renewed zeal he now pursued his reading of law. He literally devoured all the law books within his reach. Assembly convened in December, and Lincoln delved into his duties as legislator with enthusiasm. Here he met for the first time, besides many other men of power and destiny, Stephen A. Douglas, who was to play such an important part in his life. The munificent salary of three dollars a day was a legislator's salary at this time.

## CHAPTER VI

### THE FIRST GREAT SORROW



LINCOLN now considered himself so established that he could speak of his love for a highly connected, gentle mannered, beautiful young woman of New Salem, Ann Rutledge, four years his junior, and the daughter of one of the town's foremost citizens. She was much courted, and once engaged to a man who proved worthless. This engagement was broken, however, and in 1835 she became engaged to marry the future President.

The young woman wished for one more year of study in an academy, and Lincoln desired to complete his own legal studies, consequently the date of the contemplated wedding was arranged for a year later.

Here fate stepped in and robbed Lincoln of the greatest joy his life of hardship had known. Ann Rutledge fell ill, and on August 25, 1835, she died. With her mortal remains Lincoln felt his heart was buried. He was inconsolable. His tendency to melancholy became intensified. For hours he would sit by her grave oblivious to all but his black, brooding

thoughts. His friends despaired of his reason. Then he forced upon himself control of his great grief, so far as all visible signs except the deepening lines of melancholy in his splendid face were concerned.

This sad experience threatened to blast forever a life to which our country owes so much. But Lincoln was "captain of his soul," he mastered his grief, though it never left him. He pursued his studies of the law and his legislative duties thoroughly and conscientiously, albeit sadly.

To his last day Lincoln carried the fond memory of the lovely Ann Rutledge, a tender sentiment, reverently held. In later years, as is attested by his intimates, he could with calm voice and manner refer to his bereavement, but on the few occasions on which there was mention of the subject, his eyes were seen to assume an expression never noticed at any other time.

## CHAPTER VII

### THE SECOND PERIOD OF LINCOLN'S LIFE BEGINS



IN the preceding chapters we have seen the lineage and the influences that prepared the way and the man for the events from 1837 to 1865, the twenty-eight years during which Lincoln was constantly in public life, and with which the people of the country, young and old, native born and naturalized, are familiar.

It will be observed, as a curious coincidence, that Lincoln's life was divided into two equal parts—the twenty-eight years of *preparation* from 1809 to 1837 and the twenty-eight years from thence to his death in 1865, which formed the period of *achievement*.

Events in which Lincoln was an important factor came in rapid succession during this second, or achievement, period. From pioneer he became statesman, he was looked up to by

his fellow-legislators with intense respect for his manhood and integrity, and for his indomitable will and energy. As instance, among his early legislative duties he was by his fellows entrusted with a campaign to remove the capital of Illinois from Vandalia to Springfield. The project was successful, though practically every one who favored it, except Lincoln, feared the outcome. The labor involved was stupendous, and Lincoln was a mere tyro in legislative methods and lobbying. Here his wonderful personality stood him in good stead.

The young statesman-lawyer was making no money during his first and second terms in the Legislature. To be sure, he had entered into partnership with Major John T. Stuart, but financial results were meager. Though Lincoln held a military commission and he might have used his title of captain after he moved to Springfield in 1837, he preferred to be known and addressed as plain A. Lincoln. He was still practicing true simplicity because it was his nature, though, as may be seen by one of the illustrations of this "appreciation," he soon after becoming "admitted to the bar" wrote on the title page of his only dictionary "Esquire, Attorney-at-Law, Counsellor, etc."

In 1838 came re-election to the Legislature. He was Whig candidate for Speaker of the House of Representatives. In 1840 came another re-election, and in that year he made the circuit of Illinois making speeches for "Old Tippecanoe and Tyler too," an expression which had tremendous weight in the campaign, and which has ever since been imitated in other political campaigns of greater or less importance.

Then in 1841 came a new law partnership, this time with Stephen T. Logan. The firm name was Logan & Lincoln; as in other partnerships, Lincoln's name was in the background. The office was by no means imposing, nor were the clients numerous. The legal library was small, and the cases



A Sincere Regd  
Wm H. Hamilton  
at Law  
Springfield  
Illinois

PROBABLY THE FIRST TIME LINCOLN SIGNED HIS NAME  
WITH A TITLE. THE FLY LEAF OF HIS DICTIONARY


[Loaned by Major William H. Lambert]

were not diversified to any great extent. The Courts of the time were scenes of oratory such as is seldom if ever heard in these days in or out of Court. Addresses to Court and jury were seldom polished, but they were forceful. There was revel in wit and anecdote, and here Lincoln shone to great advantage—always making friends. There were enemies, too, but these helped him, in some cases, to greater renown than did his friends.

It will be difficult for many persons to believe that Lincoln could ever have been challenged to fight a duel, yet such is the well authenticated fact. In 1842 one James Shields, a hot-headed man, brave, and having served his country with distinction in the Mexican War, sent him a challenge, which he accepted, because he was convinced that as the code stood in those days he could not, with honor, refuse. Intervention of friends, however, prevented the duel in such a manner as to conserve the honor of both parties. The affair was a politico-journalistic one, and was given much publicity. It is the first and only quarrel recorded of Lincoln, and was not of his seeking. As already stated in these pages, he once thrashed an insulting bully for using profane language in the presence of women, but he never sought a quarrel with any one, nor could he be forced into one. His after life had in it much of tempestuous politics, but never personal quarrels.

## CHAPTER VIII

### ENGAGEMENT AND MARRIAGE

 IN 1840 Lincoln became engaged to marry Mary Todd, a young woman of excellent connections and education, who was visiting in Springfield, her home being in Lexington, Kentucky.

During the major portion of the time elapsing until the wedding, in 1842, Lincoln was profoundly unhappy. There

were frequent moments when he doubted the wisdom of his choice, and it is recorded that he on at least two occasions expressed his fear of the possibility of living in harmony with his fiancée, yet he felt a strong attachment for her and, further, felt in honor bound to marry her, having pledged himself. It has been stated that the wedding day first set found Lincoln missing at the time for the ceremony, but the truth of this is a disputed point among historians, with a preponderance of evidence in favor of doubting the statement.

However, on November 4, 1842, the marriage took place.

The year 1844 witnessed Lincoln as head of the electoral ticket for Henry Clay, the Whig candidate for President, who was defeated.

The next year he joined in a law partnership with Hurd. In 1846 came his election to Congress. Two years later he covered the Eastern States, making enthusiastic, virile speeches for Zachary Taylor.

He was offered the Governorship of Oregon in 1849, but declined for reasons variously stated by his biographers, the greater number claiming that the refusal was on his wife's account.

The year 1854 brought Lincoln into his first conflict with Stephen A. Douglas on the slavery question. Two years later he joined the Republican party and came before the people as candidate for Vice-President on the first ticket of that party, with John C. Fremont nominated for President.

Another lapse of two years and there occurred that famous series of debates with Douglas and others in which he contested for the seat in the Senate which Douglas won, though Lincoln had the larger popular vote.

During 1859 and 1860 Lincoln made telling speeches and drew to him and the cause he championed a tremendous following in the New England States, New York and Kansas.

Springfield, Aug: 1. 1857

Hon: J. M. Palmer.

Dear Sir:

It is <sup>our</sup> judgment that whether  
you do or do not finally stand as a can-  
didate for Congress, it is better for you to  
not <sup>to</sup> publicly declare for a while —

It is a long time till the election; and  
what may turn up no one can tell —

Yours truly

A. Lincoln.

Rich: Yates

W. H. Herndon

Wm Jayne

FACSIMILE OF LETTER WRITTEN BY LINCOLN, SIGNED BY HIM AND  
GOVERNOR YATES, HERNDON, LINCOLN'S LAW PARTNER AND  
BIOGRAPHER AND BY JAYNE, WHO AFTER THE DATE OF  
THIS LETTER BECAME RELATED TO LINCOLN

## CHAPTER IX

### ELECTION AS PRESIDENT



OUR distinct parties contested for supremacy in the presidential contest of 1860. Lincoln was the Republican candidate, winning his nomination over Seward.

In the following election Lincoln succeeded over his rival by a very narrow majority. On February 13, 1861, Congress having counted all the votes of the four parties, announced his election, and the inauguration took place March 4.

Having staked upon this election the whole doctrine of State rights and the extension of slavery, the leading Southern States looked upon Lincoln's election as a defiance of the whole course of legislation looking to the upholding of the Southern view.

Upon leaving his home at Springfield on February 11, 1861, for Washington, preparatory to the inauguration, the following words were addressed to his fellow-townsmen from the platform of the railroad car on which he departed:

"No one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. Here I have lived a quarter of a century, and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born, and one is buried. I now leave, not knowing when or whether ever I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington. Without the assistance of that Divine Being who ever attended him, I can not succeed. With that assistance I can not fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

The rebellion followed, for the South considered State rights and slave labor as the foundation of their prosperity and power, especially since the invention of the cotton gin had made cotton the king of the world of commerce, as they viewed the matter.

Woodrow Wilson says that in the Northern opposition to slavery the South felt a keen sense of injustice. They believed that the worst side of the institution was wilfully presented, that its necessities and its better side were wilfully suppressed. In the election of Lincoln they saw the beginning of an attempt to dominate them completely. It seemed the outcome of a continual battle against them and their institutions, and they saw no escape except by secession from the Union. The long conflict that followed belongs to history. To enter upon any phase of it is not within the province of this little book.

Lincoln disappointed the abolitionists and the most rabid opponents of the South. He waited until he believed that there was armed resistance to the Federal laws, and when this crisis came acted promptly and effectively. The long conflict followed, and cost the country North and South treasure and lives untold, even to this day hardly realized to the full.

## CHAPTER X

### THE ASSASSINATION



ON April 14, 1861, the flag was hauled down from Fort Sumter. Every school child knows the history of events that tried men's souls and shook the very foundations of the country in the four succeeding years.

Exactly to the day, on April 14, 1865, came another event, stupendous in our country's history—one of the outcomes of

those four terrible, sanguinary years, during which such war was waged that Sherman called it "four years of hell;" this event transpired and plunged in deepest grief, not only this country, but the entire civilized world. The emancipator of the slaves, the savior of a great country, a warm, gentle, righteous soul, President of a country fast becoming the greatest on earth, Abraham Lincoln, the man of and for the people, was stricken by the bullet of J. Wilkes Booth, at Ford's Theater, Washington, as he with Mrs. Lincoln and friends was viewing a production of the eccentric comedy, "Our American Cousin."

Ford's had been a Baptist Church prior to the war. It was used during the war mainly for theatrical productions. After the night of the assassination its doors were never opened for theatrical purposes, and the government subsequently purchased the building.

It is stated by some writers that Booth, who had at various times played at Ford's Theater, had "sent the President the State Box," and invited him to occupy it on the evening of April 14, with Mrs. Lincoln and General and Mrs. Grant. Having entree to all parts of the theater, it is claimed that he thought he could readily, in the dramatic manner an actor would choose, commit the atrocious act, make his escape as carefully planned with his conspirators, and, as he believed, free his country of a tyrant and completely change the complexion of political affairs.

Other writers make the statement that Henry Ford, manager of the theater, remarked to Booth on the morning of the fourteenth that the President's party had secured the State Box, and one writer states that he jokingly added, "General Lee will be with them."

Instantly, this writer says, Booth's whole manner became one of extreme intensity. He blurted out a remark to the

effect that no Southern soldier and gentleman would permit himself to be paraded as the Romans did their captives. Possibly this hastened the day for the perpetration of crime. Statements are conflicting.

The planning for the assassination of the President and of Secretary Seward by Booth, the Surratts, Arnold, Atzeroth, and O'Laughlin, the success in the case of the President, the attempt upon Seward's life and its failure, the capture of the conspirators, their death and all the attendant harrowing details are familiar to a large proportion of Americans. On this one hundredth anniversary of Lincoln's birth they are being republished in many forms in the newspaper and magazine press.

In this little book we attempt only to give a sketch of Lincoln's life, ambitions, sorrows and achievements, and the effect of his life and policies on history, by means of carefully sifted, verified and compared published statements as well as facts heretofore unprinted; by reproductions of his more important utterances and writings, and by side lights thrown upon his life and work by men of affairs contemporary with him and otherwise.

Though a martyr for the country he loved, and to the cause he espoused with all the strength of his great heart and mind, he was so beloved by the people before his sudden and sad taking off that the martyrdom but served to canonize him. It was not needed to increase the love of an already devoted people, though had his assassination taken place before the surrender of Lee, and the virtual end of the War of the Rebellion, when he had many enemies and detractors within his own ranks, a somewhat different aspect would have been given the event, and the perspective of years might not even by this time have properly focused his acts.



## CHAPTER XI

### AN INTIMATE APPRECIATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN



LINCOLN'S private secretaries, Messrs. John Hay and John G. Nicolay, as a labor of love, many years after the death of the great man in whose service they had labored diligently and affectionately, gave to the world, through the press of *The Century Company*, an exhaustive work on his life and the history of his time.

Theirs, of course, was the privilege of inside, authentic information covering the period of Lincoln's incumbency as President. They were in contact with him so constantly and so intimately for such a length of time, and under such circumstances, that it was possible for them to know the man's character as perhaps no other individuals might.

The entire work is in a sense an eulogy of the country's first great martyr. In one of the ten volumes, however, appears the following, which is one of the most concise, most accurate, and at the same time most comprehensive appreciations of Abraham Lincoln ever penned:

"To qualifications of high literary excellence, and easy practical mastery of affairs of transcendent importance, we must add, as an explanation of his immediate and world-wide fame, his possession of certain moral qualities rarely combined, in such high degree, in one individual.

"His heart was so tender that he would dismount from his horse in a forest to replace in their nest young birds which had fallen by the roadside; he could not sleep at night if he knew that a soldier boy was under sentence of death; he could not, even at the bidding of duty or policy, refuse the prayer of age or helplessness in distress.

"Children instinctively loved him; they never found his rugged features ugly; his sympathies were quick and seemingly unlimited. He was absolutely without prejudice of class or condition. Frederick Douglass says he was the only man of distinction he ever met who never reminded him by word or manner of his color; he was as just and generous to the rich and well born as to the poor and humble—a thing rare among politicians.

"He was tolerant even of evil: though no man can ever have lived with a loftier scorn of meanness and selfishness, he yet recognized their existence and counted with them. He said one day, with a flash of cynical wisdom worthy of La Rochefoucauld, that honest statesmanship was the employment of individual meannesses for the public good. He never asked perfection of any one; he did not even insist, for others, upon the high standards he set for himself.

"At a time before the word was invented he was the first of opportunists. With the fire of a reformer and a martyr in his heart he yet proceeded by the ways of cautious and practical statecraft. He always worked with things as they were, while never relinquishing the desire and effort to make them better. To a hope which saw the Delectable Mountains of absolute justice and peace in the future, to a faith that God in his own time would give to all men the things convenient to them, he added a charity which embraced in its deep bosom all the good and the bad, all the virtues and the infirmities of men, and a patience like that of nature, which in its vast and fruitful activity knows neither haste nor rest.

"A character like this is among the precious heirlooms of the Republic; and by a special good fortune every part of the country has an equal claim and pride in it. Lincoln's blood came from the veins of New England emigrants, of Middle State Quakers, of Virginia planters, of Kentucky pioneers; he

himself was one of the men who grew up with the earliest growth of the Great West.

"Every jewel of his mind or his conduct sheds radiance on each portion of the nation. The marvelous symmetry and balance of his intellect and character may have owed something to this varied environment of his race, and they may fitly typify the variety and solidity of the Republic. It may not be unreasonable to hope that his name and his renown may be forever a bond of union to the country which he loved with an affection so impartial, and served, in life and in death, with such entire devotion."

## CHAPTER XII

### THE TENDER SYMPATHY OF LINCOLN



MARY A. LIVERMORE, in her fine work, "My Story of the War," which is a womans' narrative of four years' personal service as a nurse in the Union Army, in camps, hospitals and at the front, a woman who was greatly loved by the entire Union Army, greatly esteemed by her countrymen, and highly honored several times by President Lincoln, throws this light on the tender side of the great man's character. It also shows the thoroughness and directness of his mental process of investigation.

"I had an opportunity during the war," says Mrs. Livermore, "of witnessing the reception by the President of two applications for pardon, which met with widely different fates. The case of the first was this: A young man, belonging to a Virginia family of most treasonable character, remained in Washington when the rest of the household went with the Confederacy. Though he took no active part with the loyalists of the capital, he was so quiet and prudent as to allay their suspicions concerning him, and finally to gain their confidence.

"He managed to obtain information valuable to the rebels, which he imparted to them unreservedly.

"Suddenly this young man was missing from his place of business. 'Unexpectedly called away by business,' was assigned as the reason for his absence. In one of the cavalry skirmishes, which occurred almost daily in Maryland, during the June raid of Lee's army, the young man was taken prisoner by General Kilpatrick's men during a brush with Stuart's cavalry.

"I do not remember the technicalities, but he was recognized, proved a spy, and, but for the President's leniency, would have been hanged. Instead of death, however, he was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. Immediately great interests were moving to his relief. Every wire was pulled. At last the President himself was besieged.

"It was in the President's room, while waiting my turn for an interview, that I learned the above facts. Two persons were pleading in his behalf—a man and a woman—the latter elegant, beautiful, and with a certain air of culture, but the former having the look of a refined villain. It was a very plausible story as they told it.

"The President listened impatiently and with a darkening face. 'There is not a word of this true!' he burst in, abruptly and sternly, 'and you know it as well as I do. He was a spy; he has been a spy; he ought to have been hanged as a spy. From the fuss you folks, who are none too loyal, are making about him, I am convinced he was more valuable to the cause of the enemy than we have yet suspected. You are the third set of persons that have been to me to get him pardoned. Now I'll tell you what—if any of you come bothering me any more about his being set at liberty, that will decide his fate. I will have him hanged, as he deserves to be. You ought to bless your stars that he got off with a whole neck, and if

you don't want to see him hanged as high as Hamen don't you come to me again about him.' The petitioners, as may be imagined, stood not upon the order of their going, but went at once, and after their departure the President narrated the facts which I have given.

"The other case was of a different character.

"I was in the ante-chamber of the President's room one morning, waiting the exit of Secretary Stanton, who was holding an interview with Mr. Lincoln. Then, as my party was under the escort of a Senator, we were entitled to the next interview. As we were waiting the departure of the Secretary of War, who was making a long visit, I looked 'round upon the crowd who were biding their time to present their claims upon the President's attention.

"There were some fifty men in attendance, and, besides myself, only one woman. She was sitting in a corner of the ante-room, with her face to the wall. Thinking she had shrunk into this place from shamefulness at being the only woman among so many men, I moved a little towards her. She was poor looking, shabbily but neatly dressed, middle-aged, sun-burned and careworn. Her hands were tightly clenching a handkerchief, which she held close against her breast, with the evident effort to master the emotion that was shaking her whole frame, and she was weeping. I saw by her manner that she was in trouble, and my heart went out to her.

"Putting my arm about her, I stooped and said, 'My poor woman, you are in trouble; can I do anything to help you?'

She turned a most imploring face toward me, and clutched my hand nervously. 'Oh!' said she, 'I am in great trouble. My husband is to be shot, and if I can not get him pardoned nobody can comfort me.' A kindly appearing man stepped forward, a country neighbor of the poor woman, and told her story. It was this:

"Her husband was a major of an Illinois regiment, and had served two years in the army with honor and fidelity. His colonel was a hard man, and, when intoxicated, abusive, uncontrollable and profane. He was, however, a good soldier, and, in the main, popular with his men. While drinking he had come fiercely in collision with the major, and a most profane and angry altercation ensued in presence of half the regiment. The colonel called the major a 'coward,' with numerous obscene and profane prefixes.

"The major was a sober man, reticent, somewhat unpopular, very cool and slow to anger; but this stung him. 'Take that back, Colonel!' he demanded, fiercely, drawing his revolver, 'or you are a dead man.' The colonel repeated the insult, even more offensively. Before the bystanders could interfere the colonel fell dead by the major's hand.

"For this he was tried, convicted, sentenced to be shot, and was then lying in jail in Memphis, awaiting his death. He had written his wife a farewell letter, entreating her to be reconciled to the event—a brief epistle, which she gave me to read—full of tenderness for her, and accusation for himself, but evincing great manliness. The Judge-Advocate had also written her, urging her to go immediately to Washington, and in person to ask the too-forgiving President to commute her husband's sentence to imprisonment.

"A sympathetic neighbor had accompanied her, and they had been in Washington twenty-four hours without having seen the President. My expressions of sympathy broke the poor woman completely down. She could not stand, she sobbed so hysterically. She had been unable to eat or sleep since she had heard her husband's sentence, and, as her townsman expressed it, 'she would soon be in her coffin if the President did not take pity on her.'

"I arranged with Senator Henderson, of Missouri, to introduce her to the notice of the President. 'Now you must be calm,' I said to her, 'for in a minute or two you are to see the President, and it will be best for you to tell your own story.'

"'Won't you talk for me?' she entreated. 'I am so tired I can't think, and I can't tell all my husband's story; do beg the President not to allow my husband to be shot.' I pressed her to my heart as if she had been a sister, for never before or since have I seen a woman so broken down, or one who so awoke my sympathies.

"'Don't fear,' I said, 'the President does not hang or shoot people when he ought, and he certainly will lighten your husband's sentence when he comes to hear all the facts.' While her agitation was at the highest the door opened and Secretary Stanton came forth with a huge budget of important looking documents. Immediately Senator Henderson ushered us into the President's apartment.

"'This woman, Mr. President,' said one of us, 'will tell you her story.' But instead of telling her story, she dropped tremblingly into a chair, only half alive, and, lifting her white face to the President's with a beseeching look, more eloquent than words, her colorless lips moved without emitting a sound. Seeing she was past speech, I spoke quickly in her behalf, stating her case, and urging her prayer for her husband's life with all the earnestness that I felt.

"All the while the hungry eyes of the woman were riveted on the President's face, and tearless sobs shook her frame. The chair she sat on fairly trembled. The President was troubled. 'Oh, dear, dear!' he said, passing his hand over his face and through his hair, 'these cases kill me. I wish I didn't have to hear about them! What shall I do? You make the laws,' turning to members of Congress in the room,

and then you come with heartbroken women and ask me to set them aside. You have decided that if a soldier raises his hand against his superior officer, as this man has done, he shall die. Then, if I leave the laws to be executed, one of these distressing scenes occurs, which almost kills me.'

"Somebody ventured the remark that 'this seemed a case where it was safe to incline to the side of mercy.' 'I feel that it is *always* safe,' replied the President, 'but you know that I am today in bad odor all over the country because I don't have as many persons put to death as the laws condemn.' The attendant of the wife gave the President an abstract of the case, which had been furnished by the major's counsel, and which the President began gloomily to run over. Now and then he looked up pityingly at the speechless woman, whose white face and beseeching eyes still confronted him, expressive of an intensity of anguish that was almost frightful.

"He had turned over some half-dozen pages of the abstract, when he suddenly dropped it, sprang forward in his chair, his face brightened almost into beauty, and he rubbed his hands together joyfully. 'Oh,' he said, 'I know all about it! This case came before me ten days ago, and I decided it then. The major's crime and sentence were forwarded to me privately, with a recommendation to mercy, and, without any solicitation I have changed his sentence of death to two years' imprisonment in the penitentiary at Albany. Major —— has been a brave man, and a good soldier, and he has had great provocations for a year. Your husband knows all about it before now,' he said, addressing the wife, 'and when you go back you must go by way of Albany, and see him. Tell him to bear his imprisonment like a man, and take a new start in the world when it is over.'




"The major's wife did not at first comprehend, but I explained it to her. She attempted to rise, and made a motion as if she were going to kneel at the President's feet, but instead she only slipped helplessly to the floor before him, and for a long time lay in a dead faint. The President was greatly moved. He helped raise her, and when she was taken from the room he paced back and forth for a few moments before he could attend to other business. 'Poor woman,' he said, 'I don't believe she would have lived if her husband had been shot. What a heap of trouble this war has made!'

"The expression of the President's face as it dawned upon him that he had already interposed between the major and death will never leave my memory. His swarthy, rugged, homely face was glorified by the delight of his soul, which shone out on his features. He delighted in mercy. It gave him positive happiness to confer a favor."

## CHAPTER XIII

### LINCOLNS' LOFTY UNSELFISHNESS CONTROLLING SELF, HE COULD CONTROL OTHERS

HAT Lincoln was above all feeling of personal slight or criticism, that, paramount to every consideration of personal dignity, ease, or profit, was his love of country, and, during the war, his desire for the success of the Union cause, is evidenced by many recorded anecdotes and documents.

Perhaps nothing the great man ever uttered or written exemplifies this more clearly and forcefully than the letter he penned Major-General Hooker, January 26, 1863, after that general had vilified Lincoln, his commander-in-chief, and shown insubordination to the officer who immediately ranked him.

This letter read as follows:

“Executive Mansion,  
“Washington, January 26, 1863.

“Major-General Hooker.

“General: I have placed you at the head of the Army of the Potomac.

“Of course, I have done this upon what appear to me to be sufficient reasons, and yet I think it best for you to know that there are some things in regard to which I am not quite satisfied with you.

“I believe you to be a brave and skilful soldier, which, of course, I like.

“I also believe you do not mix politics with your profession, in which you are right.

“You have confidence in yourself, which is a valuable if not an indispensable quality.

“You are ambitious, which, within reasonable bounds, does good rather than harm; but I think that during General Burnside's command of the army you have taken counsel of your ambition and thwarted him as much as you could, in which you did a great wrong to the country and to a most meritorious and honorable brother officer.

“I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the army and the government needed a dictator. Of course, it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship.

“The government will support you to the utmost of its ability, which is neither more nor less than it has done and will do for all commanders. I much fear that the spirit you have aided to infuse into the army, of criticising their commander and withholding confidence from him, will now turn

upon you. I shall assist you as far as I can to put it down.

"Neither you nor Napoleon, if he were alive again, could get any good out of an army while such a spirit prevails in it. And now, beware of rashness; beware of rashness, but with energy and sleepless vigilance go forward and give us victories.

"Yours very truly,

"A. LINCOLN."

## CHAPTER XIV

### SHERMAN'S AND GRANT'S TRIBUTES



GENERAL SHERMAN said of Lincoln, after his death: "Of all the men I ever met, he seemed to possess more of the elements of greatness, combined with goodness, than any other man I ever knew or heard of."

General Grant, after his world-girdling trip, in which he met the rulers of almost every civilized country, said: "Lincoln impressed me as the greatest intellectual force which I have ever had the good fortune to know."

But not only were Lincoln's fellow countrymen proud of him, not only did they love him both as man and chief magistrate, not only did the people of America mourn. Unprecedented outbursts of emotion on the receipt of the sad news of the assassination were seen in many other countries.

Old newspapers and magazines reveal the fact, for instance, that the students of Paris marched in a body to the American Legation to express their sympathy. A two-cent subscription was started to strike a massive gold medal; the money was soon raised. A committee of French Liberals brought the medal to the American Minister, to be sent to


Mrs. Lincoln. "Tell her," they said, "the heart of France is in that little box." The inscription on the lid of the box was this: "Lincoln—the Honest Man; Abolished Slavery, Re-established the Union; Saved the Republic, Without Veiling the Statue of Liberty."

Everywhere on the Continent the same great love for Lincoln was manifested among the common people.

Nicolay and Hay say of Lincoln: "Almost before the earth closed over him he began to be the subject of fable. The Freemasons of Europe generally regarded him as one of them—his portrait in Masonic garb was often displayed, yet he was not one of this brotherhood. The Spiritualists claimed him as their most illustrious adept, but he was not a Spiritualist; and there was hardly a sect in the Western world, from the Calvinist to the Atheist, but affected to believe he was of their opinion."

## CHAPTER XV

### LINCOLN'S WIT AND WISDOM

 LINCOLN'S stepbrother was rather "shiftless," and formed the habit of appealing to him for aid. The following letter, written by Lincoln upon receipt of one of the numerous requests for assistance, brims with canny wisdom and unconscious humor. It is very characteristic of the man. To Col. Henry Watterson we owe the discovery of this letter:

"Springfield, January 2, 1851.

"Dear Brother: Your request for eighty dollars I do not think it best to comply with now. At the various times I have helped you a little you have said: 'We can get along very well now,' but in a short time I find you in the same

difficulty again. Now this can only happen through some defect in you. What that defect is I think I know. You are not lazy, and still you are an idler. I doubt whether since I saw you you have done a good, whole day's work in any one day. You do not very much dislike to work, and still you do not work much, merely because it does not seem to you you get enough for it. This habit of uselessly wasting time is the whole difficulty. It is vastly important to you, and still more to your children, that you break the habit. . . .

"You are now in need of some money, and what I propose is that you shall go to work, 'tooth and nail,' for somebody who will give you money for it. Let father and your boys take charge of the things at home, prepare for a crop and make the crop, and you go to work for the best money wages you can get, or in discharge of any debt you owe, and, to secure you a fair reward for your labor, I promise you that for every dollar you will get for your labor between this and the 1st of May, either in money or in your indebtedness, I will then give you one other dollar. By this, if you hire yourself for ten dollars a month, from me you will get ten dollars more, making twenty dollars. . . .

"In this I do not mean that you shall go off to St. Louis, or the lead mines in Missouri, or the gold mines in California, but I mean for you to go at it for the best wages you can get close to home in Coles County. If you will do this you will soon be out of debt, and what is better, you will have acquired a habit which will keep you from getting in debt again. But if I should now clear you out of debt, next year you would be just as deep in debt as ever.

"You say you would almost give your place in Heaven for seventy or eighty dollars? Then you value your place in Heaven very cheap, for I am sure you can, with the offer I

make, get the seventy or eighty dollars for four or five months' work.

"You say if I will lend you the money you will deed me the land, and, if you don't pay the money back, you will deliver possession. Nonsense! If you can not now live with the land, how will you then live without it?

"You have always been kind to me, and I do not mean to be unkind to you. On the contrary, if you but follow my advice you will find it worth eighty times eighty dollars to you.

"Affectionately, your brother,

"A. LINCOLN."

## CHAPTER XVI

### LINCOLN'S FAME



ON. JOHN HAY, who was one of Lincoln's private secretaries, says:

"The death of Lincoln awoke all over the world a quick and deep emotion of grief and admiration. If he had died in the days of doubt and gloom which preceded his re-election, he would have been sincerely mourned and praised by the friends of the Union, but his enemies would have curtly dismissed him as one of the necessary and misguided victims of sectional hate.

"They would have used his death to justify the malevolent forebodings, to point the moral of new lectures on the instability of democracies. But as he had fallen at the moment of a stupendous victory, the halo of a radiant success enveloped his memory and dazzled the eyes even of his most hostile critics. That portion of the press of England and the Continent which had persistently vilified him now joined

in the universal chorus of elegaic praise. Cabinets and courts which had been cold or unfriendly sent their messages of condolence.

“The French Government, spurred on by their Liberal opponents, took prompt measures to express their admiration for his character and their horror at his taking-off. In the Senate and Chamber of deputies the imperialists and republicans vied with each other in utterances of grief and praise; the Emperor and Empress sent their personal condolences to Mrs. Lincoln.”

At the impressive funeral services Bishop Simpson delivered a pathetic oration; prayers were offered and hymns were sung; but the weightiest and most eloquent words uttered anywhere that day were those of the Second Inaugural (reproduced in this little book), which the committee had wisely ordained to be read over his grave, as the friends of Raphael chose the incomparable canvas of the Transfiguration as the chief ornament of his funeral.

## CHAPTER XVII

### THE GREAT SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS DELIVERED MARCH 4, 1865



ELLOWS COUNTRYMEN: At this second appearing to take the oath of the Presidential office, there is less occasion for an extended address than there was at the first. Then, a statement, somewhat in detail, of a course to be pursued seemed fitting and proper. Now, at the expiration of four years, during which public declarations have been constantly called forth on every point and phase of the great contest which still absorbs the attention and engrosses the energies of the nation, little that is

new could be presented. The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends, is as well known to the public as to myself; and it is, I trust, reasonably satisfactory and encouraging to all. With high hope for the future, no prediction in regard to it is ventured.

On the occasion corresponding to this four years ago, all thoughts were anxiously directed to an impending civil war. All dreaded it—all sought to avert it. While the inaugural address was being delivered from this place, devoted altogether to saving the Union without war, insurgent agents were in the city seeking to destroy it without war—seeking to dissolve the Union, and divide effects, by negotiation. Both parties deprecated war; but one would make war rather than let the nation survive; and the other would accept war rather than let it perish.

And the war came.

One-eighth of the whole population were colored slaves, not distributed generally over the Union, but localized in the southern part of it. These slaves constituted a peculiar and powerful interest. All knew that this interest was, somehow, the cause of the war. To strengthen, perpetuate and extend this interest was the object for which the insurgents would rend the Union, even by war; while the Government claimed no right to do more than restrict the territorial enlargement of it. Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration which it has already attained. Neither anticipated that the cause of the conflict might cease with, or even before, the conflict itself should cease. Each looked for an easier triumph, and a result less fundamental and astounding. Both read the same Bible, and pray to the same God; and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's



faces; but let us judge not, that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered—that of neither of them has been answered fully. The Almighty has His own purposes. “Woe unto the world because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh.” If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued through His appointed time, He now wills to remove, and that He gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman’s two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said, “The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.”

With malice toward none, with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation’s wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan—to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves, and with all nations.

## CHAPTER XVIII

### LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG SPEECH

DELIVERED NOVEMBER 19, 1863



FOURSCORE and seven years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not dedicate, we can not consecrate, we can not hallow, this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note or long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us; that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to the cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have lived in vain, that the nation shall, under God, have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



N 1868 Issac H. Clothier entered into partnership with Justus C. Strawbridge, under the firm name of Strawbridge & Clothier. Important extensions were immediately planned, and a larger building was erected. The business is now owned solely and controlled by the sons of the founders; and it was the occupancy

of that new store in the autumn of 1868 that was commemorated during the month of October, 1908, by the Fortieth Anniversary Exposition. Many and larger additions have been made to the Strawbridge & Clothier stores since 1868, but the establishing of the principles was the important thing—upon a foundation broader and stronger than bricks and stone has been reared the great store of to-day.

From the beginning the one-price principle has been maintained—not a new system then, however, though it is claimed to have been “originated” long since.

The customers of this store have also always been allowed the privilege of a fair exchange or return of goods that were not satisfactory.

It has been a square deal business from its inception, and has never had to adopt “new” principles of trade, though quick to establish new methods and improvements. Its motto has ever been to sell merchandise of trustworthy quality only, at prices as low as possible with good service; to require courtesy from every employe to every visitor; to lead in every movement toward better methods of serving the public.

The Strawbridge & Clothier store is the oldest of the large general stores in Philadelphia, and is doubtless among the half-dozen largest in America.

The stocks of merchandise exceed five millions of dollars, and the business of the firm in many of the important lines is larger than that of any other store in Philadelphia.

The number of employes is approximately five thousand, and this great organization is rated above the average in character, intelligence and efficiency. The members of the firm maintain close relationship with the entire body of helpers, with an unusual regard for the welfare of all, giving substantial encouragement to every movement for bettering their condition.

The Strawbridge & Clothier Relief Association and the Strawbridge & Clothier Saving Fund are among the pioneer organizations of the kind in America. A Pension Fund for the benefit of employes growing old in the store’s service has been established, and a large sum already accumulated. The firm is also proud of the Strawbridge & Clothier Chorus, made up entirely of store employes, and regarded as among Philadelphia’s notable musical organizations. A monthly magazine is also published by and for the employes who designate themselves “The Store Family.”

**STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER**

**Founded 1868**

**On the Principles of  
Sincerity and Courtesy and  
“the Square Deal”**